



## ► An Enduring Resource of Wilderness

**W**HAT GIVES “Wilderness” a capital “W”? A legal designation. The Wilderness Act of 1964 established a National Wilderness Preservation System, under which designated areas are managed to “secure for the American people ... and future generations the benefits of an enduring resource of wilderness ... unimpaired for future use and enjoyment.”

### Wilderness today

In 1984 the California Wilderness Act added over 85% of Sequoia and Kings Canyon to the National Wilderness Preservation System. This gave 723,006 acres the greatest legal protection from development or abuse. An additional 91,636 acres have been proposed for wilderness status and are managed as such.

Wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, is “...an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain.” The word “trammel” is an interesting one, meaning a net or something that impedes activity, progress, or freedom. There should be no such impediment in wilderness. Here, nature is the dominant force.

Since wilderness is managed to preserve its natural conditions, it offers “outstanding opportunities for solitude,” providing us a chance to slow down from our busy schedules and rejuvenate.

Surrounded almost entirely by other federally designated wilderness, the Sequoia-Kings Canyon Wilderness is part of a huge complex: the Golden Trout to the south; the John Muir to the east, north, and northwest; and the Monarch and Jennie Lakes wildernesses to the west. These areas are administered by the U.S. Forest Service. The National Park Service and the Forest Service coordinate closely since many backcountry visitors travel between agency jurisdictions.

### Forecast for the future

Wilderness management is an evolving process. As we work to balance use with preservation, guidelines and regulations will continue to change.

Damage to the community of resources must be avoided; existing damage must be remedied. As a result, you may see campfire restrictions in some areas change, and trails may be rerouted or closed. Certain locations may be closed to camping or grazing while they recover from overuse. When you receive your wilderness permit, ask the ranger for the latest information.

Natural communities serve as large, outdoor laboratories that yield significant understanding of our planet’s future. Scientific studies in wilderness areas are authorized as long as they do not cause unacceptable impact on natural resources or visitors’ experiences. As we learn more about how ecosystems function, we can better gauge our actions to ensure that our incredible wilderness resource is truly enduring.

One thing is certain: By following guidelines and treating the land with respect, we may sustain its capacity to provide us all with extraordinary experiences in a truly wild landscape.

## ► Food Storage Options



### ■ Best option: Portable canisters

Available for sale or rent at multiple locations in the parks and Forest Service ranger stations/visitor centers on the east side. Allows for maximum freedom of camping locations and ensures security of food.

### ■ 2nd choice: Food storage box

Guaranteed bearproof, but there are drawbacks: Depending on boxes limits your potential camping areas, and many fill up. **Box locations:**

KINGS CANYON NP	
<b>Bubbs Creek</b>	
Sphinx Creek .....	2
Charlotte Creek .....	1
Junction Meadow (lower) .....	1
Junction Meadow (East Creek) .....	1
Vidette Meadow .....	2
9900' Elevation/JMT .....	1
JMT/Center Basin Trail .....	1
East Lake .....	2
<b>Charlotte &amp; Kearsarge Lakes</b>	
Charlotte Lake .....	1
Kearsarge Lakes .....	3
<b>Copper Creek</b>	
Lower Tent Meadow .....	1
<b>Lewis Creek</b>	
Frypan Meadow .....	1
<b>Sugarloaf Valley/Roaring River</b>	
Ranger Lake .....	2
Seville Lake .....	2
Lost Lake .....	1
Sugarloaf Meadow .....	1
Roaring River Ranger Station .....	3
Comanche Meadow .....	1
<b>Woods Creek</b>	
Lower Paradise Valley .....	2
Middle Paradise Valley .....	1

Upper Paradise Valley .....	2
Woods Creek crossing/JMT .....	2
Arrowhead Lake .....	1
Lower Rae Lake .....	1
Middle Rae Lake .....	2

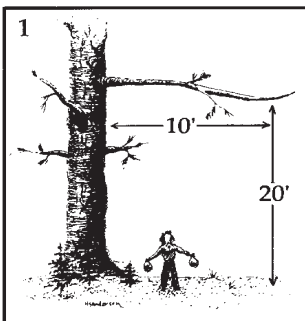
SEQUOIA NP	
<b>Hockett Plateau</b>	
Hockett Meadow .....	1
South Fork Meadow/Rock Camp .....	1
Hidden Camp/Lower South Fork Meadow .....	1
Upper Camp/South Fork Pasture .....	2
<b>Kern Canyon</b>	
Lower Funston Meadow .....	1
Upper Funston Meadow .....	2
Kern Hot Springs .....	2
Junction Meadow .....	1
<b>Little Five Lakes/Cliff Creek/Chagoopa</b>	
Moraine Lake .....	1
Cliff Creek/Timber Gap Trail Jct. ....	1
Pinto Lake .....	1
Little Five Lakes .....	1
Big Five Lakes .....	1
Columbine Lake .....	1
Big Arroyo Crossing .....	1
Lost Canyon/Big Fire Trail Jct. ....	1

<b>Lodgepole Backcountry</b>	
Mehrten Creek crossing/HST .....	1
9 Mile Creek crossing/HST .....	1
Bearpaw .....	4
Upper Hamilton Lake .....	3
Emerald Lake .....	2
Pear Lake .....	2
Clover Creek South crossing/TLT .....	1
JO Pass Trail/TLT junction .....	1
Twin Lakes .....	2
Buck Creek crossing/HST .....	1
<b>Mineral King Area</b>	
Monarch Lake .....	2
Franklin Lake .....	3
<b>Rock Creek</b>	
Lower Rock Creek crossing/PCT .....	1
Lower Rock Creek Lake .....	1
Lower Soldier Lake (Upper Rock Creek Lake) .....	1
<b>Tyndall/Crabtree Area</b>	
Tyndall Creek/JMT .....	1
Tyndall Creek Frog Ponds .....	1
Wallace Creek/JMT .....	1
Lower Crabtree Meadow .....	1
Crabtree Ranger Station .....	1

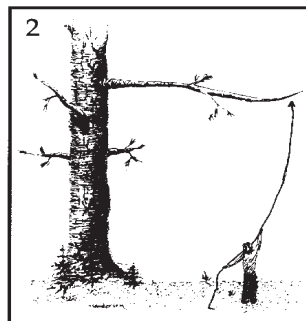
JMT = John Muir Trail PCT = Pacific Crest Trail  
HST = High Sierra Trail TLT = Twin Lakes Trail

### ■ Last choice: Hanging food from trees

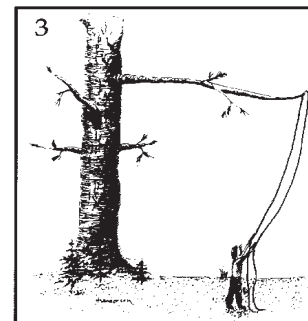
Use the counterbalance method only when storage boxes or canisters are not available. It is hard to do well, requires trees and rope, and bears can often thwart it. Reinforce this method with a human guard.



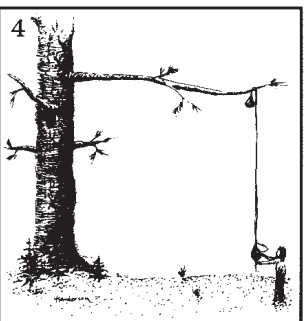
Find tree with a live, down-sloping branch, even if you must select a different campsite. Divide food into two balanced bags.



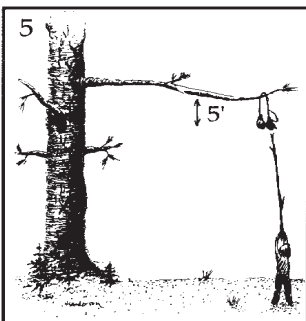
Use enough rope to go over branch and back to ground. Toss as far out on branch as will support the food but not a cub.



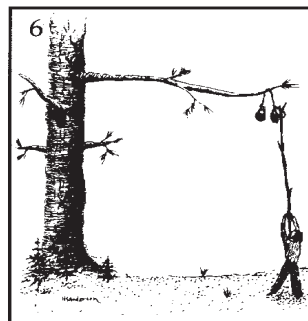
Make sure no objects are below the branch that could support a bear. Tie on and hoist first sack up to branch.



Tie second sack high on rope; put excess rope in sack, leaving loop out for retrieval.



Toss or push lower sack up with stick until sacks are at equal height, at least 5' below the branch.



Retrieve with long stick through loop. Pull slowly to avoid tangles.